

When I was in high school, it was nearly impossible for young women of color to become cheerleaders. At the time, I was participating in a work-study program at Pacoima Memorial Lutheran Credit Union and my boss, John Mance, was a member of the local NAACP Board. Together, he and Carl McCraven, the CEO of the credit union, worked to change the rules so anyone should try out to be a cheerleader. Thanks to them, I was able to cheer for the Tigers!

We all know their great contributions that the NAACP has made to our nation:

From their largest legal victory in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall—to their central role in the successful battles to overturn Jim Crow.

Today, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to engage in groundbreaking and critical work to combat disparity and inequality in our society.

Today, they boldly stand against repressive voter ID laws, economic inequality and mass incarceration.

We know that inequality persists—the unemployment rate among African Americans is nearly twice the rate of their white counterparts and the African American poverty rate is nearly three times the poverty rate of white Americans.

These statistics paint a clear picture of inequality in America.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and opportunity should be open to all and the NAACP is working day-in and day-out to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to achieve the American dream.

I am proud that the NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner and advocate.

I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the NAACP's 106th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

EVANGELINE BEST

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Evangeline Best. Her boundless energy and unending civic engagement are an inspiration to all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her innumerable contributions to Hillsborough County.

Evangeline Best is a native Floridian who was raised in Tampa. She earned a Bachelor's degree from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Masters in Education at Florida A&M University. Ms. Best has been a tireless advocate for community development and education as a means of ending poverty. Ms. Best's impressive career in education began in Tampa where she worked for over 27 years as a Family Services Worker for Hillsborough County Schools and completed

the last 5 years as the Family Services Coordinator.

Beyond Ms. Best's professional career, she also committed her personal life to the betterment of her neighbors in Hillsborough County. She served as Chairman of the East Tampa School Community Partnership as well as Vice Chairwoman of the Heart of East Tampa-Front Porch, Inc. Both are organizations critical to the success of East Tampa and Hillsborough County. Currently she serves on a number of vital committees including Vice Chair of the Corporation to Develop Communities in Tampa, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors with the West Central Florida Area Aging Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the Florida State Fair Diversity Committee. She also volunteers weekly with the Abe Brown Ministries Family Reunification Video Visitation Program and is a consultant for REACH UP, Inc.

Given her outstanding efforts, Ms. Best has received a number of honors and awards including the 2010 Bank of America "Volunteer Hero Award", the 2005 National Head Start Association "Lifetime Achievement Award", and the 2005 Neighborhood Works New Horizons "Dorothy Richardson Award" for Community Leadership and Commitment Revitalization America's Neighborhoods. Her accomplishments include 50 years of community involvement as a member of the First Baptist Church of College Hill, the Tampa Urban League, as well as the Hillsborough Educators Association.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Best's diligent and unrelenting service has made my Tampa Bay community a better place to live—one filled with more hope and opportunities because of her attention and love for others. She has set an example of how to be a devoted public servant, mother, and friend. Please join me in celebrating her outstanding efforts to make this world a better place.

GLYN AND ALAN MASI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the West Chamber's Ambassadors of the Year, Glyn and Alan Masi, for their outstanding commitment to the local community.

Glyn and Alan own Ticker Tuners, a local business in Morrison with a mission they are both passionate about: helping people identify, treat and monitor their heart health. In addition, Glyn and Alan attend every ribbon cutting, open house or other event where help is needed and involve West Chamber members and local businesses.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Glyn and Alan Masi for the honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to their community in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 149TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the legendary Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, which this year celebrates 149 years of service to the greater Houston community and the nation.

For more than a half century, under the leadership of the Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr., the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, now led by Rev. O.B. Winkley, has provided material support and spiritual sanctuary to the least of God's children and used the prophetic voice of the church to speak truth to power.

Mr. Speaker, in January 1866, seven months after slaves were freed in Texas (June 19, 1865), a small group of freed slaves, assisted by the First Baptist Church and missionaries, organized the first African American Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

After holding worship services at the First Baptist Church and the German Baptist Church, church members began to hold services on Buffalo Bayou in "Brush Arbor."

Later, the church moved to "Baptist Hill" located at Rusk and Bagby until the present site was purchased.

In 1868, one of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's members, Jack Yates, was ordained at the first meeting of the Association of African American Baptist Churches.

Rev. Jack Yates became the first pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and as the membership grew and additional space was needed, Rev. Yates led the church to purchase its present site and build a brick structure.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's new home was the first brick structure built and owned by African-Americans in Houston, and was located in the center of Freedman's Town and was the center of activity for the African-American community.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church provided the former slaves with opportunities to worship the Lord, but also established ministries to help them develop educationally, economically and socially.

With the help of two missionaries, Rev. Yates began the Baptist Academy, which taught such fundamental skills as reading, writing, and arithmetic, and provided vocational training to enable men and women to start their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Baptist Academy would later become Houston College, the forerunner of Texas Southern University.

Under Rev. Yates' leadership, church members were encouraged and assisted in buying property, owning homes, and developing businesses.

The Old Landmark Baptist Association of Texas was organized at Antioch and Emancipation Park was purchased in a joint venture with Trinity Methodist Church to provide green space to engage in recreational activities and hold community celebrations, such as Juneteenth.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in recognizing the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church